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tion has been paid to the system of delimiting the strips in the shot in use among North Germans. Where this system, the *Breitensystem*, prevailed, the width of the strip was the same in every strip in the shot. The length might vary, but the width was the same. According to the *Flächensystem*, the more truly "*deutsches*" system, on the other hand, the aim is to divide the land into pieces of equal area. The width of the strip is of less importance and the shots are small and irregular in size. In the word used to denote the strip of the *Breitensystem*, in Oldenburg, *Jard*, among the Frisians, *Jerde*, we find a clue to the origin of the yard-land. Although of the width of two rods, the strip becomes the yard in England and the foundation of the yard-land. The yard of land as a superficial measure is a half-acre, not a quarter-acre as Maitland holds. The origin of the intermixed holdings in the common fields made up of strips of equal width seems to Rhamm to need particular explanation. To apportion strips of both good and bad land to the several members of a community he regards as the natural method of securing the equality of all shareholders, and this equality, in turn, is proved by the fact that the strips are equal in width. Professor Knapp's criticism (that a conscious policy, aimed at the maintenance of economic equality, is too rationalistic for early Teutons) is answered by the antiquity and wide spread of the *Breitensystem*. "This [latter] fact stands so fixed that it says to all Hildebrand's analogies, all Knapp's deductions, and all Rübel's wild fancies, 'Hands off.'" Thus "the common free-man" finds support.

Throughout the book Scandinavian and English conditions are compared. The development of agrarian relations in the frame of the large *hufe* is to be explained in Scandinavia by co-operative agriculture, while among the Anglo-Saxons the organization of society played a more important part. To illustrate, the hide is to be regarded as the holding of a ceorl who has only public obligations to perform, while the yard-land is the holding of a dependent ceorl and owes its importance to this fact. The influence of the small "German" *Landhufe*, exerted before the conquerors of England left Germany, explains the size of the yard-land.

The effect of the book is not to make one reject Professor Maitland's theories. It rather supplements his line of argument by giving us a wider range of facts to aid in the solution of the problems of early English economic history. It is surprising that no reference is made to Kovalevsky's *Die ökonomische Entwicklung Europas*.

H. R. SHIPMAN.

Mohammed and the Rise of Islam. By D. S. MARGOLIOUTH.
[Heroes of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P.
Putnam's Sons. 1905. Pp. xxvi, 481.)

ALTHOUGH various lives of Mohammed have appeared, and although some of these may be fairly characterized as excellent, yet of late years

so much progress has been made, not only in Oriental studies pure and simple, but also in such subjects as psychology, ethnology, and comparative religion, subjects the importance of an acquaintance with which for the investigation of various phenomena in Mohammed's career and in the rise of Islam is at once evident, that there was room, in English at least, for a work which should embody as many as possible of the results of these researches. We therefore welcome this volume which Professor Margoliouth has contributed to the "Heroes of the Nations" series.

Personal or doctrinal bias has so often seriously diminished the value of lives of Mohammed, which otherwise would have been excellent, that in considering a new biography of the prophet one naturally regards the attitude of the author as of prime importance. It is a pleasure to be able to say that a perusal of this volume shows that Professor Margoliouth has sincerely tried to give a just and impartial account of the career of his "Hero", and that he has succeeded in his avowed aim of making his book neither an apology nor an indictment. That his views in regard to all matters of detail will meet with universal agreement is not to be expected in a subject of so much difficulty, and one in which there is so much room for honest difference of opinion. It will probably be generally admitted that the author has not over-idealized Mohammed. Some will feel that the author shows insufficient sympathy for the Jews in his story of Mohammed's dealings with them, and it is certain that his slur on their fighting qualities (p. 36) will be resented in some quarters, even though he says (p. 194) that, "Fighting under foreign commanders, and by the side of brave men, the Jews have often proved themselves as good soldiers as other men."

Some idea of our author's treatment of his subject may be gained by a glance at the titles of the chapters, which are, respectively: The Birthplace of the Hero; Early Life of Mohammed; Islam as a Secret Society; Publicity; History of the Meccan Period; The Migration; The Battle of Badr; Progress and a Setback; The Destruction of the Jews; Steps towards the Taking of Meccah; The Taking of Meccah; The Settlement of Arabia; The Last Year.

In addition to a number of illustrations there are a plan of Meccah, a map of Arabia in the seventh century A. D., and one of West Central Arabia in the same period. The combined index and glossary, covering as it does only eight pages and a half, was manifestly not intended to give a complete list of all the passages where a given name or a given topic occurs. In fact some names occurring in the text are not entered in the index.

In a short review it is impossible to go into many details, but attention may be called to one little slip, namely, in the note at the bottom of page 57. Professor Margoliouth is, no doubt, perfectly aware that rain does fall in Egypt; moreover, what Professor Nöldeke actually says in his *Sketches from Eastern History*, chapter II., pp. 30-31, is: "he makes the fertility of Egypt—where rain is almost never seen and never

missed—depend on rain instead of the inundations of the Nile (xii. 49)."

The book is packed with information, references are very freely given, and from these and from the bibliography (pp. xxiii-xxvi), together with various notices in the preface, the student can get an excellent general idea of the bibliography of the subject. The proof-reading has been carefully done. As remarked above, difference of opinion as to details there is bound to be, but Professor Margoliouth has in this work produced a life of Mohammed which no student can afford to neglect.

J. R. JEWETT.

England under the Normans and Angevins, 1066-1272. By H. W. C. DAVIS, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: Methuen and Company. 1905. Pp. xxii, 577.)

THIS, the second in chronological order in Professor Oman's series, is an attractive book, at once well-planned, well-written, and scholarly. The narrative is crisp and clear and the characterizations pointed, and Mr. Davis treats his theme broadly, contriving to say something on practically every aspect of the period, and finding space for two readable chapters on intellectual and social conditions. Indeed the treatment is in some places so broad as to lead to unnecessary and even unhistorical digressions. The author cannot take up the conquest of Ireland without applying the fable of the hare and the tortoise to the Celtic and Teutonic characters, and he considers it part of his business as a historian to decide whether the influence of monasticism and the Crusades was good or bad, after a fashion which recalls the *Würdigungen* once popular in certain German schools of historical philosophy. Such lapses into teleology are, however, brief and infrequent, more common defects being a tendency to subjective judgments and sweeping statements.

The book claims (p. xi) to be "based throughout upon the original authorities", and while we cannot suppose that this is meant to be taken with literal exactness, it is plain that Mr. Davis has read widely in the printed sources and used them to good purpose. The monographic contributions of English and German scholars have also been industriously utilized, but there is a curious neglect of the results of American investigations. Of the various studies of Gross and G. B. Adams he cites only the *Gild Merchant* and *Coroners' Rolls* and Adams's brief note on the commune of London. He has evidently not seen Adams's interpretation of the writ of Henry I. regarding the local courts (AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, VIII. 487-490), or Lapsley's *County Palatine of Durham*, or Thatcher's *Studies concerning Adrian IV*. A perusal of Larson's *King's Household in England before the Norman Conquest* would have saved him from the statement that the household of the West-Saxon king was a copy of the Carolingian (p. 44). He would also have found evidence in this REVIEW (VIII. 625, note 3) that the